REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found throughout the specification and in original Claim 2. New Claim 5 is supported at specification page 15, three lines up from the bottom. New Claim 6 is supported at specification page 7, middle. New Claims 7 and 8 are supported at specification page 9, middle – page 11, top. New Claims 9-10 are supported by specification page 11, middle. New Claims 11, 15 and 16 are supported by the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 of the specification. New Claim 12 is supported at specification page 12, middle. New Claim 13 is supported by specification page 12, bottom. New Claim 14 is supported by original Claim 1. New Claim 17 combines the limitations of new Claims 8, 9 and 11, and is supported at the same portions of the specification as are these claims. No new matter has been entered.

An important part of the present invention, both discussed in the specification and embodied in the present claims, is the recovery of dissolved polyarylene sulfide based resin from the washing liquid by precipitating and separating it from the washing liquid by cooling and/or adding water to the washing liquid. As noted at specification page 4, the invention method avoids the losses of polyarylene sulfide based resin that occur in the prior art, as well as other problems encountered with prior art methods. None of U.S. 5,247,063, U.S. 3,707,528 or U.S. 5,898,061 disclose or suggest such a method. That is, none of the applied references discuss the problem solved herein, nor do they address this problem by precipitating and separating polyarylene sulfide based resin that is dissolved in the wash liquid, thereby recovering otherwise lost product and increasing yield.

For example, in U.S. 5,247,063, the described PPS can be washed to extract soluble impurities (column 1, lines 55 ff.), but nothing is done to the washing liquid. Instead, the advancement described therein relates to the demoisturization of moist polyarylene sulfides under high pressure with the application of shearing forces (column 1, bottom). This is made

clear in the description of the Examples appearing in the paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4 of the reference where the wash water is not further treated, and is presumably discarded.

U.S. 3,707,528 relates to the recovery of slurries containing polyarylene sulfides including flashing a slurry and recovering the flashed organic diluent (column 2, lines 45-57). Nowhere in the reference is it suggested that, when a polyarylene sulfide based resin is washed with a washing liquid, that dissolved resin in the washing liquid be recovered by precipitating and separating it by cooling and/or adding water thereto, as claimed.

The same situation obtains in U.S. 5,898,061 where polyarylene sulfide resins are washed in the liquid state (column 2, lines 50-56) but the wash liquid is not treated as in the present invention to recover dissolved polyarylene sulfide based resin.

Accordingly, and because no reference applied against the claims discloses or suggests what Applicants have invented and are claiming herein, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn. The present invention as embodied in the pending claims is entitled to patent protection, and early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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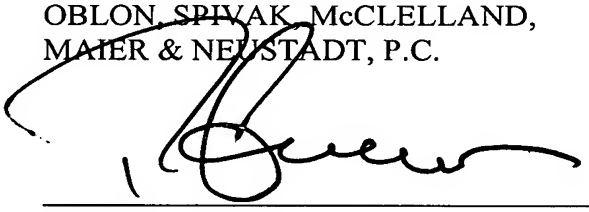

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